

CAN/WILL COMPUTERS EVER?

People keep writing and submitting articles on whether computers will ever be "intelligent."

In hopes of never having to read or publish such things again, I have created a computer program which will write just such an article for you, any time you want to see such a thing. Thus we need never, in principle, run such stuff any more in the future, since you will be able to get it by the yard whenever you want it.

Inspired by the Pascal definitions, this is presented in the form of a recursive flowgraph. Just follow the lines from left to right, except where doubling-back is permitted, as shown by arrowheads. Actually, even with no computer experience, a little knowledge of model railroading will get you through.

You can go through available loops repeatedly. For instance, a noun phrase may consist of NOUN NOUN NOUN. (A thing which includes itself in the definition is recursively defined. Logicians call that circular; mathematicians call it wonderful.) Lower-case text is to be used literally; all-upper-case symbols indicate an entity to be plugged in from another ~~specified~~ flowgraph, as specified.

The trivial exercise of conversion to an available computer language with appropriate output routines is left to the reader. (Note, however,

that such flowgraphs are themselves a legitimate computer language, and this is really a program.)

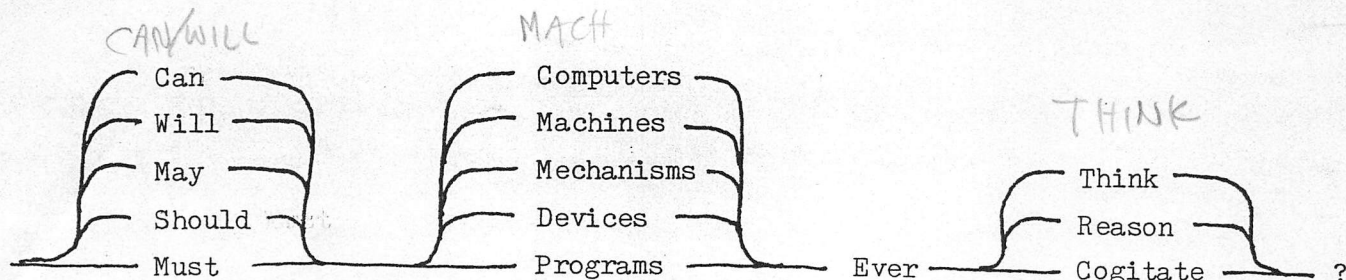
You must, of course, randomize the choices by which the computer walks around the net, and assign probability weightings to the different choices. These probability assignments will naturally affect the style and tenor of the resulting output slushtext.

Use of a smaller vocabulary will of course impart a sparer and more forceful quality. You might also want to modify the program to generate correct plurals and tenses, although this is a fair amount of work and will somewhat reduce the resulting joie de vivre.

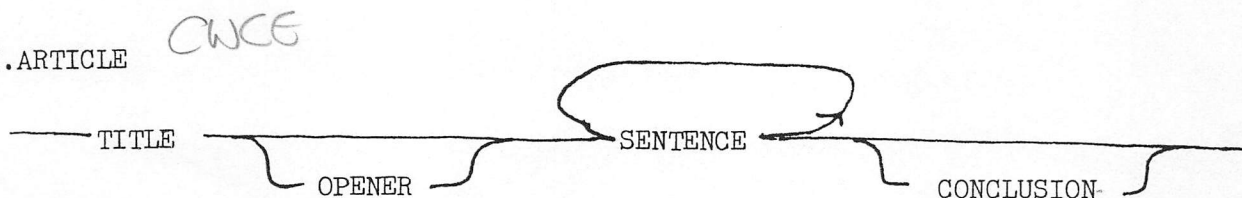
You may also want to allow the user to specify a certain quantity of output between title and conclusion; whether by words, paragraphs, pages or volumetric measure is up to you.

This generates solecisms and peculiar spelling combinations with a certain quaint charm, certainly no worse than in a typical manuscript. The same applies to the level of reasoning.

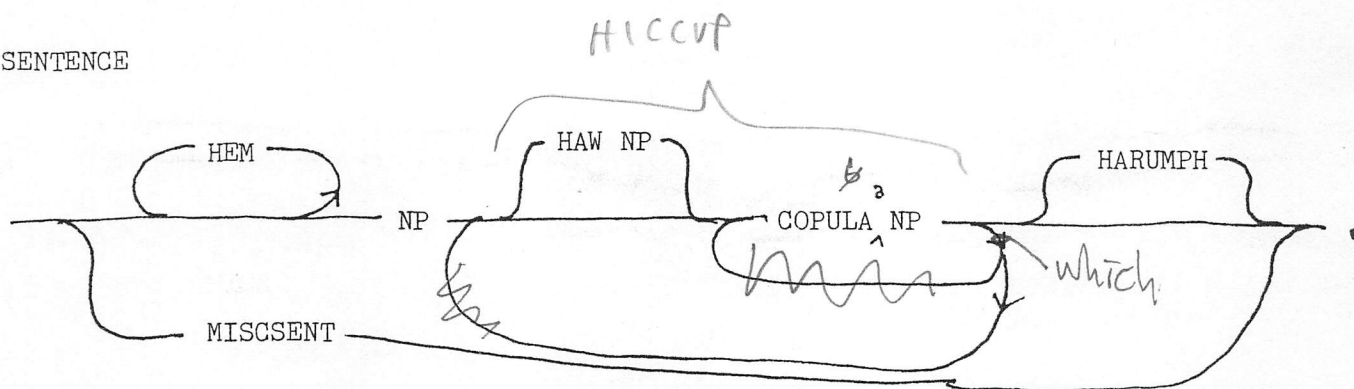
TITLE



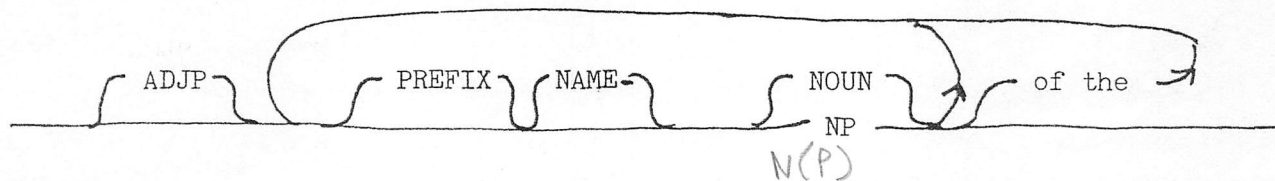
WHOLE.ARTICLE



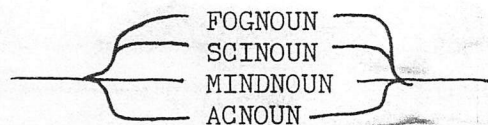
SENTENCE



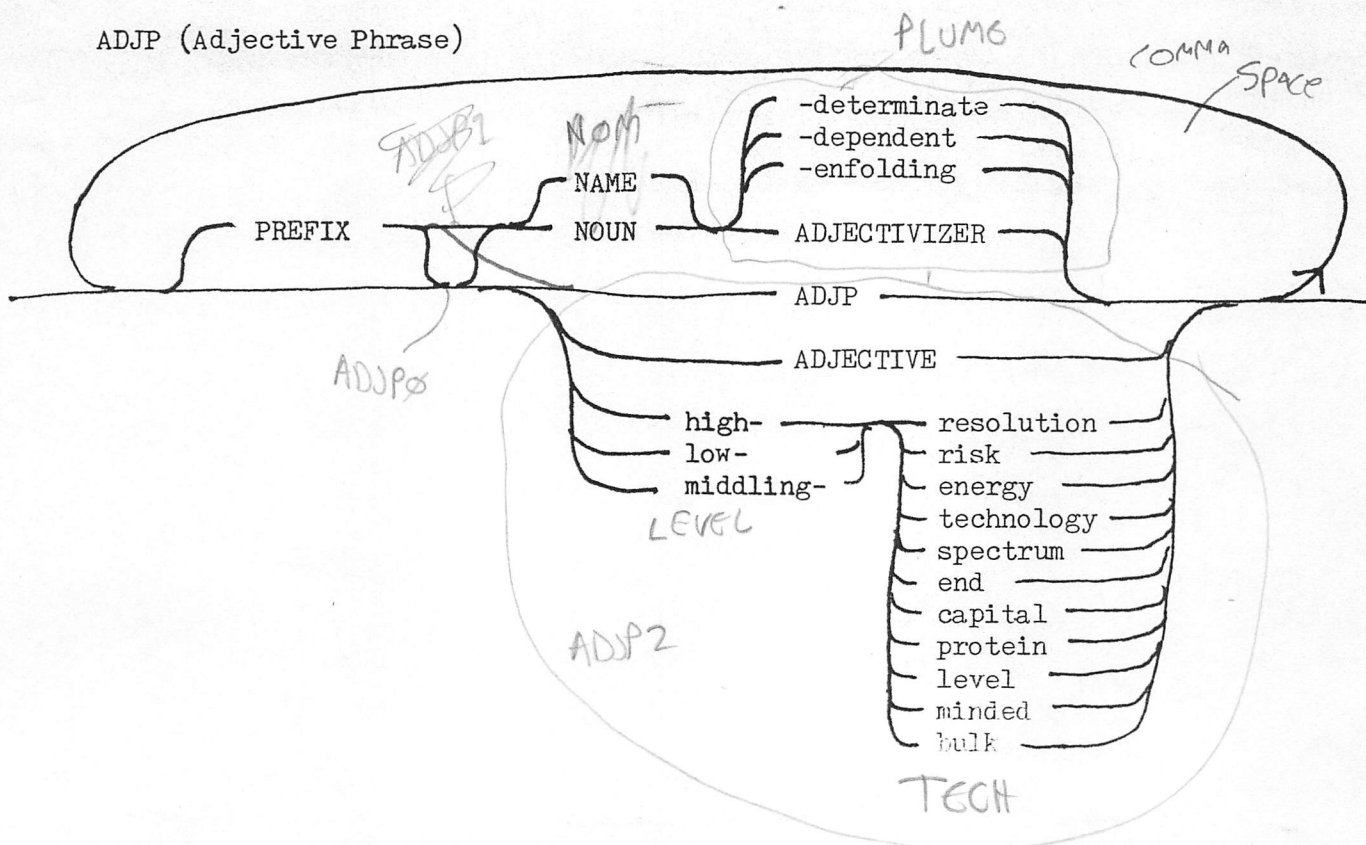
NP (Noun Phrase. For FNP (Fognoun Phrase) use only FOGNOUNs, for SNP (Scinoun Phrase) use only SCINOUNs, for ANP (Acnoun Phrase) use only ACNOUNs, for MNP (Mind Noun Phrase) use only MINDNOUNs.)



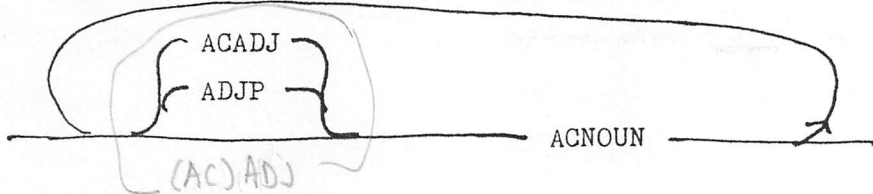
NOUN



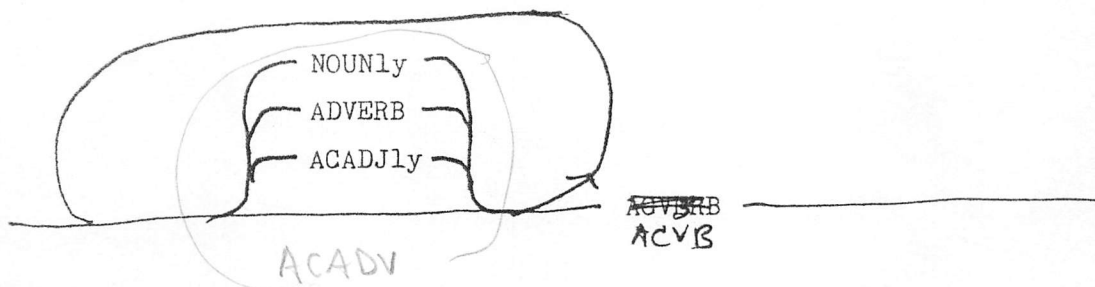
ADJP (Adjective Phrase)



ACNP (Academic Noun Phrase)



ACVP (Academic Verb Phrase)



OPENER

- # The progress of science repeatedly runs up against certain stubborn questions. Anyway,
- # Many have wondered
- # Hey,

Why is it that
how come
why

HUNCL

For example:

HUMPH

why
how come
why is it that
HUMQ

HUNCL?

the human MNP is ADJP

- # There is reason to conjecture as to our MNP.
- # Many ACNOUNs have been advanced to account for
- # The ancients, like you and I, noted the NP of human
- # Philosophers through the ages have observed the
- # It has long been believed that SENTENCE.

MNP

HUNCL (Humm mind clause)

The human MNP is ADJP

: HUMPH (') CFA HUNCL ;

"WHY" MAYBE EXECUTE "THAT" ELSE DROP
"HOWCOME" THEN

MISCSENT (Miscellaneous Sentences)

ACVBed

The ACNOUN that NP COPULA NP has been ACVERBed on the basis of the NP.

NAME has ACVERBed that the NP COPULA NP.

According to NAME's ACNOUN, SENTENCE.

This is because the FNP.

must

MUST

will

NAME should hereafter ACVERB the ACNOUN that SENTENCE.

NAME, in his ACNOUN,

has ACVBed

the NP

researchers, in their ACNOUN,

may

ACVB

reaching the conclusion that

sentence?

investigators,

will

scoundrels,

ought to

could conceivably

it was based on

NP

TYPES

P1 P3

TYPES

MA

ARPANET

LISP hackers

compulsive programmers

scientists

NAME

Gödel

Turing

Minsky

Chomsky

McCarthy

Flopsy

Mopsy

Cottontail

Peter

Winograd

Hofstadter

Weizenbaum

Dreyfus

Martin Gardner

Dave Ahl

Lisp

Arpanet

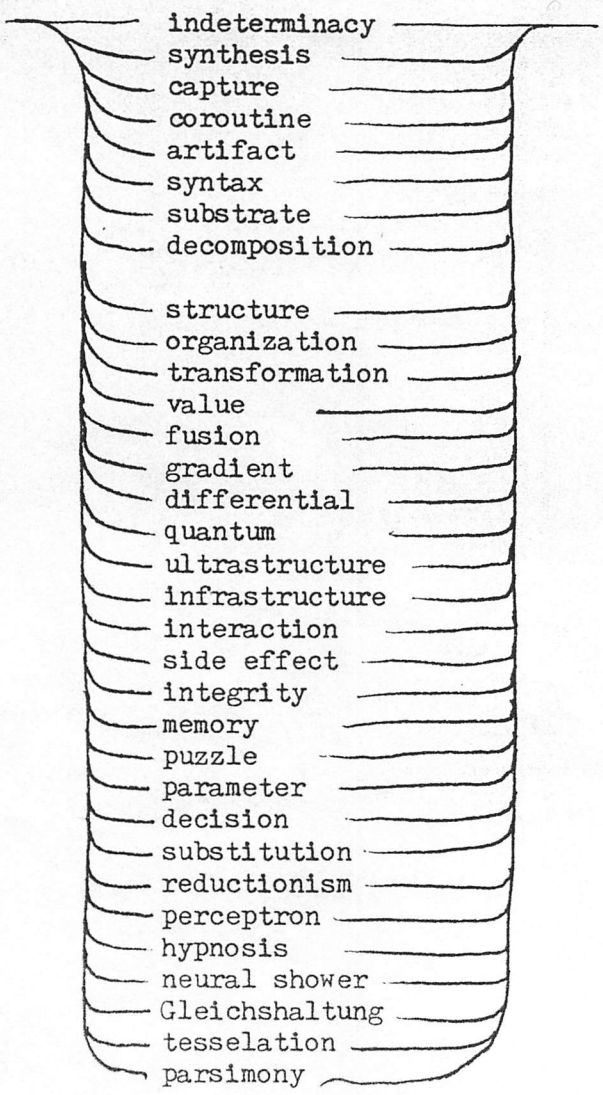
??

certain TYPES

ELIZA

PARRY

FOGNOUN



indeterminacy

synthesis

capture

coroutine

artifact

syntax

substrate

decomposition

structure

organization

transformation

value

fusion

gradient

differential

quantum

ultrastructure

infrastructure

interaction

side effect

integrity

memory

puzzle

parameter

decision

substitution

reductionism

perceptron

hypnosis

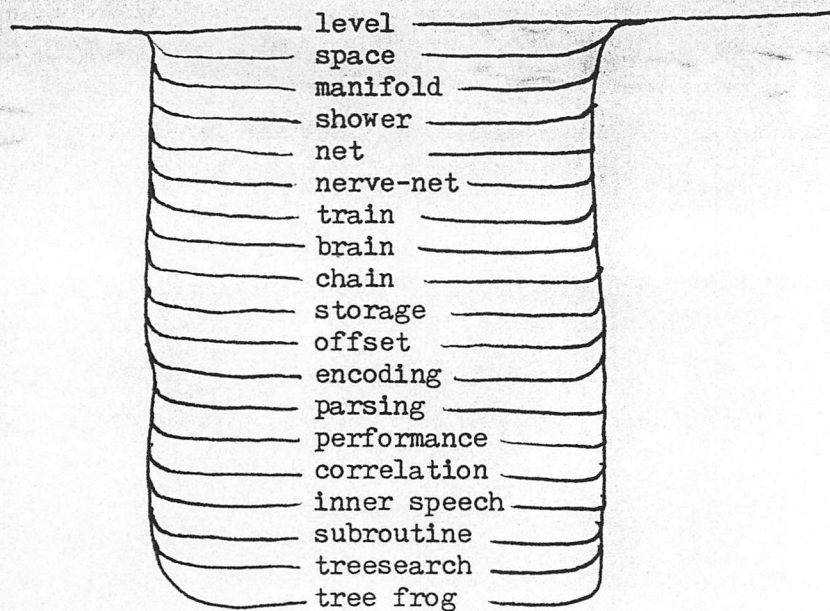
neural shower

Gleichshaltung

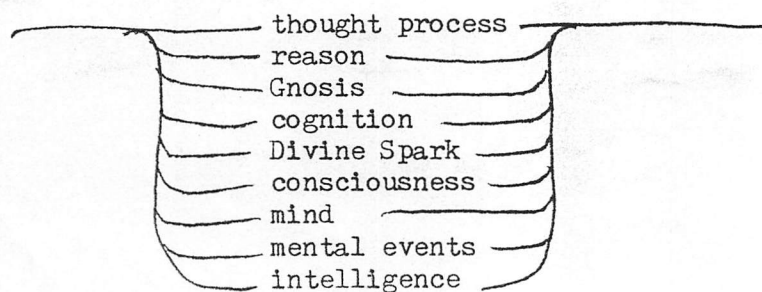
tesselation

parsimony

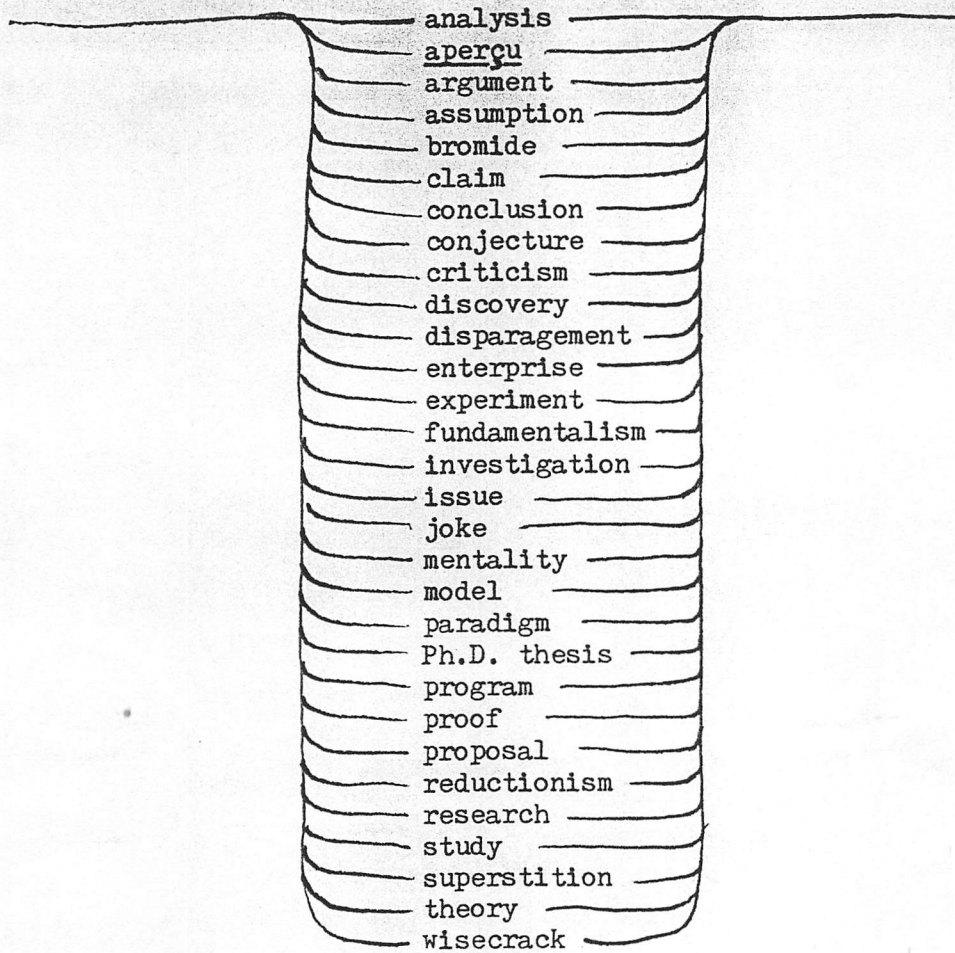
SCINOUN



MINDNOUN

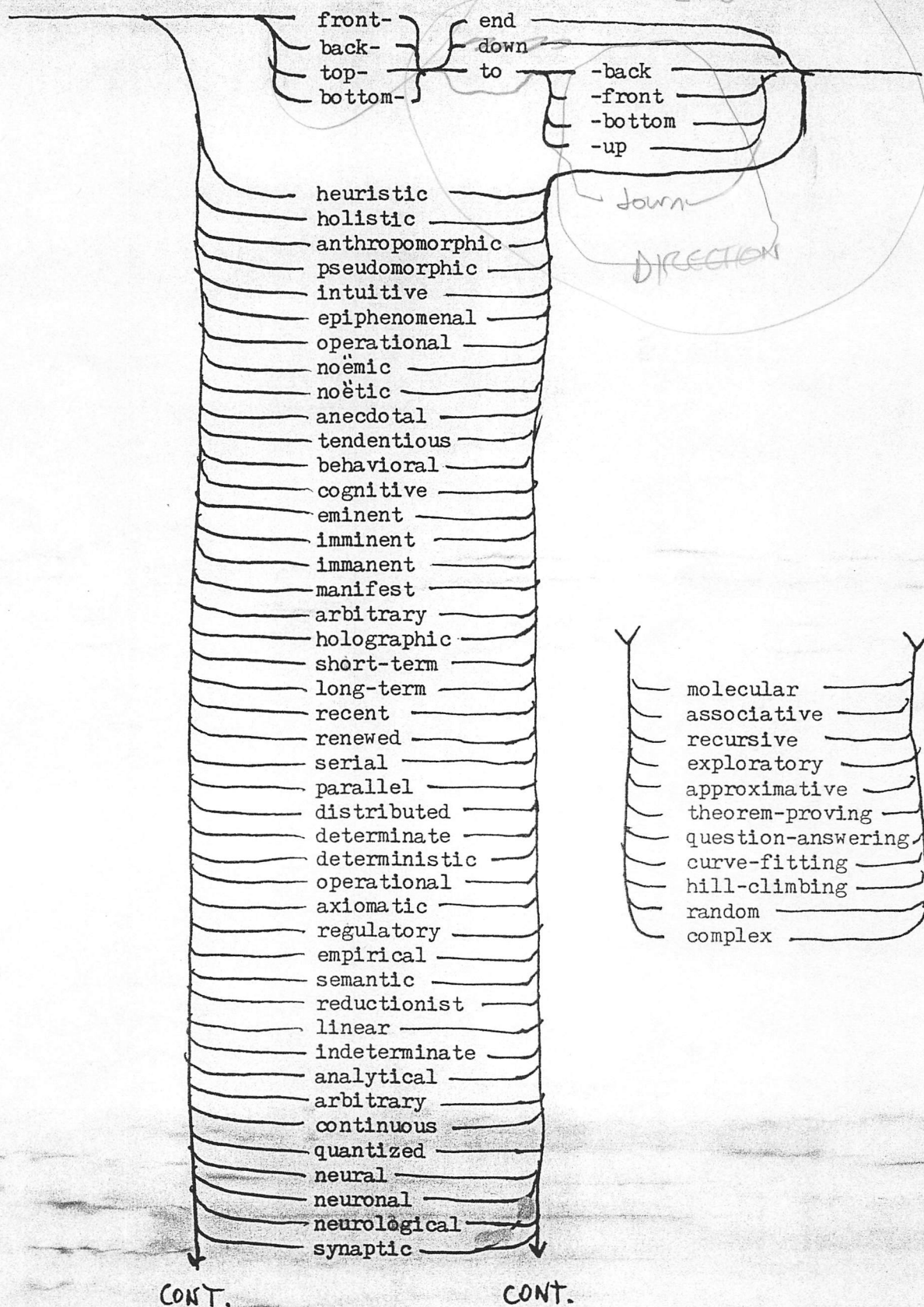


ACNOUN (Academic Nouns)



analysis
aperçu
argument
assumption
bromide
claim
conclusion
conjecture
criticism
discovery
disparagement
enterprise
experiment
fundamentalism
investigation
issue
joke
mentality
model
paradigm
Ph.D. thesis
program
proof
proposal
reductionism
research
study
superstition
theory
wisecrack

ADJECTIVE



ACVB (Academic Verb)

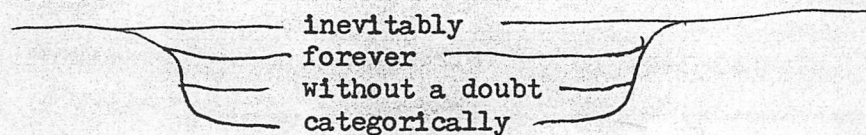
absquatulate
 assert
 bring into focus
 call into question
 clarify
 confuse
 consider
 continue to believe in
 contradict
 corroborate
 deal with
 decide
 defame
 discommodate
 discuss
 disprove
 disgrace
 find evidence for
 grant
 indicate
 investigate
 militate for
 modify
 note
 obfuscate
 obscure
 prove
 re-evaluate
 rehabilitate
 show
 study
 stultify
 support

ACADJ (Academic Adjective)

long-
 carefully
 eagerly
 thoroughly
 widely
 awaited
 conjectured
 studied
 misunderstood
 dubious
 titillating
 proven
 renowned
 well-known
 fallacious
 former
 elegant

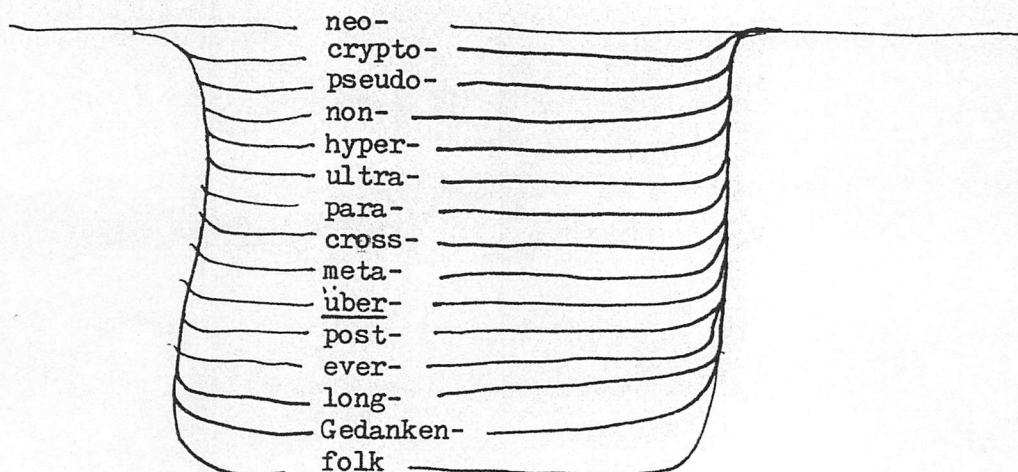
ACLY ACKED

ADVERB



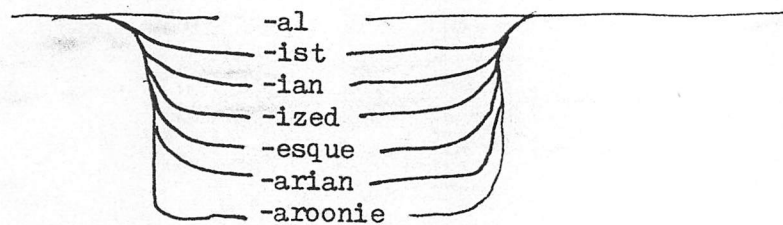
inevitably
forever
without a doubt
categorically

PREFIX



neo-
crypto-
pseudo-
non-
hyper-
ultra-
para-
cross-
meta-
über-
post-
ever-
long-
Gedanken-
folk

ADJECTIVIZER



-al
-ist
-ian
-ized
-esque
-arian
-aroonie

NAMES

(CAN)

HEM

and

will

may

can

ACADJly,

as NAME

ACVB

science tells us

men have conjectured that

it has been noted that

it has long been believed that

it can ACADJly be ACVBed that the

ever since NAME, the

it should be noted that

it has been ACV Bed

we have ACV Bed

through history,

in the course of man's intellectual peregrinations,

some guys think

there can longer be any doubt that

it has been concluded that

in recent years

NAME's ACNOUN about NAME's ACNOUN

therefore,

despite the NP,

due to NP effects,

for this reason,

according to this ACNOUN,

under such an ACNOUN,

there has been a growing body of ACNOUN that

due to the NP of the MNP,

there can be little doubt that

or, to put it another way,

truly,

indeed,

yet,

To be sure,

however,

thus,

But

HAW

with respect to

because of the

considering the

within among the

whatever the

shows tendencies such that

with the result that

has tended to ACV B the ACNOUN that

ACVPs the ACNP that

ACVBed
ACVBed

HARUMPH

; there appears to be little doubt of this ACNP.

; so, too, thought the ancients.

; thus spake Zarathustra.

; young people today appear to have similar urges.

; so continues the Great Chain of Being.

; What is NP? asked jesting Pilate.

; but not in the South.

COPULA

is

was

might be

would seem to be

takes

definitely affects

is tantamount to the

has been made the

has continued to ACVP the ACNOUN that

CONCLUSION

Conclusion. 1 SENTENCE 2 In the final analysis the ACNP must determine

whether machines will certainly think
may never
we have the right to play fair
Nim
chess
God.

CAME